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Lucia A Keegan 09/05/2006 05:29:17 PM From DB/Inbox: Lucia A Keegan

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Text:

UNCLAS SENSITIVE PARIS 05872

SIPDIS
cxparis:

ACTION: ECON
INFO: ECNO UNESCO ECSO MGT ENGO SCIO TRDO ESCI FCS
POL ORA AMB AGR SCI LABO DCM

DISSEMINATION: ECONOUT /1
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: ECON:SDWYER
DRAFTED: ECON:MMOTLEY
CLEARED: MGT:JAGNEW

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0922
INFO RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 0132

UNCLAS PARIS 005872

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR IO/T-TOBEY, L/DP-BENDA
MONTREAL FOR USICAO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [ADPM](#) [EAIR](#) [AORC](#) [ICAO](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: FRANCE: DEMARCHE ON AVIATION SECURITY, THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH
AND THE VIENNA CONVENTION

REF: A. SECSTATE 112194 B. SECSTATE 128260

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1. (SBU) Econoff delivered reftels' points August 10 to Luc Lapene, head of the International Coordination Office at the French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC). Lapene indicated that France would attend the Montreal ICAO AVSEC panel meeting, and would be represented by one of DGAC's technical experts on aviation security, Alexandre Crozat. In response to demarche, Lapene said that the issue was well worth full discussion, but noted that it was "complex." Referring to the previous day's news of the U.K. terrorist plot to bomb airliners, he said that "things change," and that discussion would have to take into account the fundamental question of the trustworthiness of participants. Econoff underlined that for the U.S. this was an issue of privileges and immunities guaranteed by the Vienna Convention, and urged that DGAC coordinate with MFA to ensure that this was fully reflected in the French position.

2. (SBU) Management Officer and Information Management Officer delivered points August 31 to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Acting Protocol Director (Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities) Pierre Filatoff, Deputy Director of Protocol Marie-Jeanne de Coquereaumont, and Chief of Diplomatic Pouch Services Bruno Guerquin. Filatoff advised that he would ensure the French delegation receives our demarche. Filatoff and Coquereaumont assured us that the GOF is in full agreement with the US position -- that the Vienna Convention does not permit the opening nor detention of diplomatic pouches and it supercedes guidance in the ICAO Security Manual. They noted that it will be a fine point of discussion as to whether x-raying of diplomatic pouches is equivalent to opening them. They pointed out,

however, that in the "spirit" of the Vienna Convention diplomatic pouches should not be subject to x-raying. The GOF is therefore in full agreement with our position.

13. (SBU) Diplomatic Pouch Chief Guerquin reminded us that the U.S. has access to the tarmac at French airports, access the French do not enjoy in the US. Guerquin noted that while the Vienna Convention makes no distinction between classified and unclassified pouches (the latter being unaccompanied and thus not fully controlled by their government during shipment), the French see a clear distinction between the two types of pouches, and seek to ensure that classified pouches are not opened, detained, nor subject to x-raying. He reiterated that the Vienna Convention does not make the distinction between the two, but the accompanied (classified) pouch is the greater matter of concern. Guerquin asked whether the US would be changing its policy on aviation security in light of recent developments. Management Off replied that we had not obtained any guidance apart from the diplomatic pouch matter, and thanked the MFA officials for their assistance and support of our common position at the upcoming ICAO AVSEC Panel meetings.

STAPLETON